

## THE AMERICANUS GROUP OF OODES (Carabidae)

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The specimens of *Oodes* standing under the labels "*americanus* Dej." and "*fluvialis* Lec." in American collections exhibit a great amount of confusion. Apparently, students have been unable to make a consistent separation on the basis of the more or less distinct and close punctation of the elytral striae, used by Horn (1870, p. 107; 1881, p. 30). In a previous paper (1955, p. 26) I have briefly dealt with this group and was able to state that three—not two—forms are involved which at that time I regarded as distinct species. After the material of the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ), Cambridge, Mass., and of the National Museum (NMW), Washington, D. C., was sent me for study, the large series at hand convincingly showed that a strict limit cannot be fixed between the true *americanus* as defined by Dejean (1826, p. 377), and according to his typical specimen in the Paris Museum (Lindroth, *l.c.*), and the *fluvialis* of Leconte (1863, p. 13). The latter is a northern form of *americanus* and, though transitional individuals occur, the name may still be used as covering a geographical subspecies. The insect provisionally mentioned as "*n. sp.*" in my previous paper (*l.c.*) is herewith described.

The species concerned, black without metallic tinge and with 7 complete elytral striae, are the North American representatives of *Oodes s. str.*

### Key to the North American *Oodes s. str.*

1. Small, 8-9 mm. Prothorax not perceptibly narrowed at base..... **amaroides** Chevrr.  
More than 11 mm. Prothorax narrowed at base..... 2
2. Microsculpture of sternites (except the last one) consisting of transverse meshes. — ♂ :  
protarsi broader (fig. 1-A); last sternite with sparse and fine, not confluding punctures; penis, fig. 2-A. — ♀ : Microsculpture meshes of elytra about isodiametric but irregular,  $\pm$  angulate ..... **brevis n. sp.**  
Microsculpture of sternites (except the last one) consisting of rounded, almost isodiametric meshes. — ♂ : protarsi, fig. 1-B; last sternite with coarse and dense, confluding punctures; penis, fig. 2-B, C. — ♀ : Microsculpture meshes of elytra isodiametric, rounded ..... **americanus** Dej

### *Oodes brevis* new species

Length 11.3-12.1 mm. Deep black, prothorax in the posterior half with feeble tinge of brown laterally (as in *americanus*), antennae, mouth-parts and legs piceous. Broad as *americanus s. str.*, but convex as pronounced sbsp. *fluvialis*. Lateral bead of prothorax slightly narrower. Elytral striae deeper on an average and constantly with distinct, rather close punctures. The entire upper surface is pronouncedly dull, due to the strong microsculpture (especially in the ♀), the meshes on the elytra being about isodiametric but  $\pm$  irregular,  $\pm$  angulate. A similar difference (in com-

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parison with *americanus*), though less evident, can be observed in the prothoracal microsculpture of the ♂. On the ventral surface, the microsculpture of the sternites (except the last one) consists of clearly transverse meshes, the difference from *americanus* being best observed on the central part at the base of each sternite.—♂: Protarsi (fig. 1-A) heavily dilated, especially the 2. joint, the 3. broadest at base. Last sternite with sparse and fine, non-confluent punctures. Penis (fig. 2-A) stout, greatest width in the basal half.

As typical region I have selected *Virginia*. The hototype ♂ is from Fairfax Co., 29.IV.1928 (A. Nicolay, MCZ); the allotype ♀ is from Fort Monroe, IV.1919 (coll. Hubbard & Schwarz, NMW). All specimens from Virginia and District of Columbia (*vide* below) have been designated as paratypes.

*Distribution*—*Texas*: Orange, 10.IX.1925 (C. E. White, MCZ). *Georgia* (without exact locality) (C. V. Riley, NMW). *Virginia*: Fort Monroe, IV.1919 2 ex. (coll. Hubbard & Schwarz, NMW); Fairfax Co., 29. IV. 1928, 7.IV.1929 2 ex., 23.IX.1932 (A. Nicolay, MCZ, Mus. Univ. Lund); Alexander, Aqueduct Bridge 13.VII.1918 (NMW). *District of Columbia*: Washington 28.IV. 3 ex. (coll. Hubbard & Schwarz, NMW, Mus. Univ. Lund), Eastern Branch 30.IX.1927 (immature) (H. S. Barber, NMW). *New Jersey*: Rivervale, 9.V.1926 2 ex. (P. J. Darlington, Jr., MCZ); Camden II.1916 (G. M. Greene, NMW); Laurel Springs V.1921 (G. M. Greene, NMW). *Indiana*: Elkhart (coll. Liebeck, MCZ). *Illinois*: Richland & Lawrence Co., Wabash Valley, V.1879 (F. C. Bowditch, MCZ). *Iowa* (without exact locality) (J. B. Smith, NMW).

#### *Oodes americanus* Dejean (1826)

The typical specimen, a ♂ in the Paris Museum (*vide* above), is labelled "America borealis" only but belongs to the large southern form of the species.

#### *forma typica*

Length 12.3-14.0 mm. Broad and rather flat. Elytral striae with variably developed punctures. Upper surface slightly shiny, microsculpture shallower than in *brevis* (specimens of the same sex should be compared!), the meshes on prothorax and elytra as well as on the central part of the sternites (except the last one) are almost regularly isodiametric, rounded. The punctures of the last sternite are coarse and confluent in both sexes.—♂: protarsi, fig. 1-B. Penis (fig. 2-B) with slender basal part which forms an acute angle with the rest.

*DISTRIBUTION*.—I have seen pronounced specimens of the *forma typica* from California (MCZ), Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and North Carolina (MCZ).

#### subspecies *fluvialis* Leconte (1863)

Length 11.3-12.5 mm. Slenderer, more convex and as a rule smaller than the *forma typica*, which it represents in the northern part of the area. The sides of prothorax are usually slightly less rounded at base. Indices of width and length

of prothorax and elytra are, however, overlapping. No differences in the micro-sculpture, or in the protarsi of the ♂, could be observed. The penis (fig. 2-C), in pronounced specimens, is less slender, notably the basal part, which is situated at about a right angle to the rest; but transitional forms occur. Possibly, with a large material at hand, it would be practicable to construct a north-south "cline" on this character, at least in eastern U.S.A.

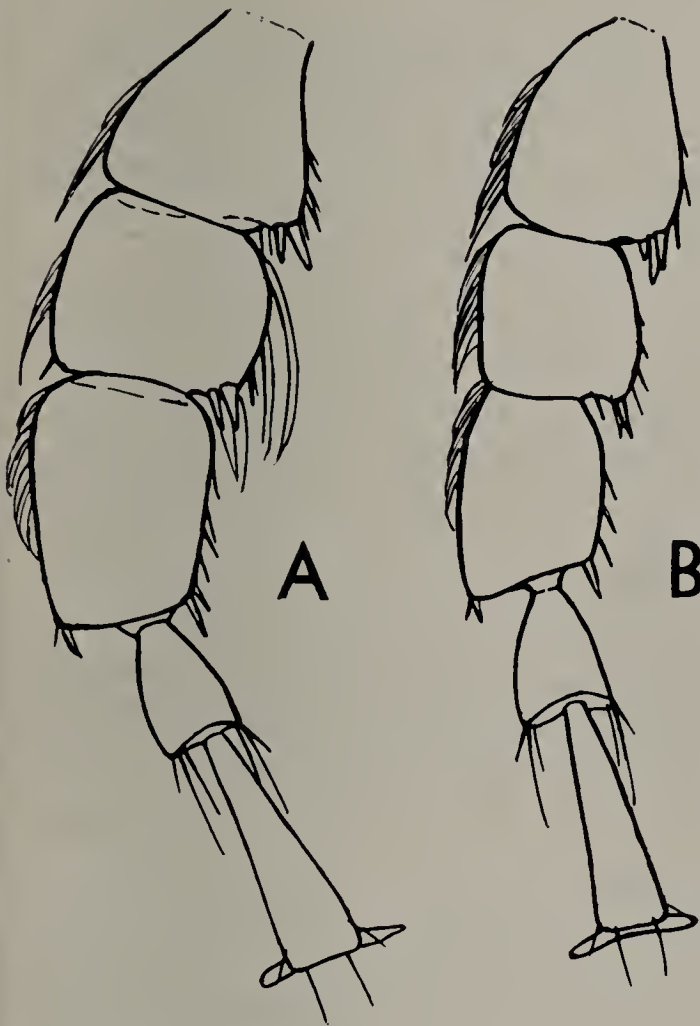


FIG. 1. Protarsi in male of *Oodes*.—A, *O. brevis*, new species. (Washington, D. C., paratype); B, *O. americanus* Dej. (Philadelphia Neck, Pa.).

DISTRIBUTION.—The pronounced sbsp. *fluvialis* has a northerly distribution: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire; Grimsby (pr. Hamilton), Ontario (Petit, coll. C. V. Riley, NMW).

Specimens  $\pm$  intermediate between *forma typica* and sbsp. *fluvialis* have been seen from Michigan, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York.

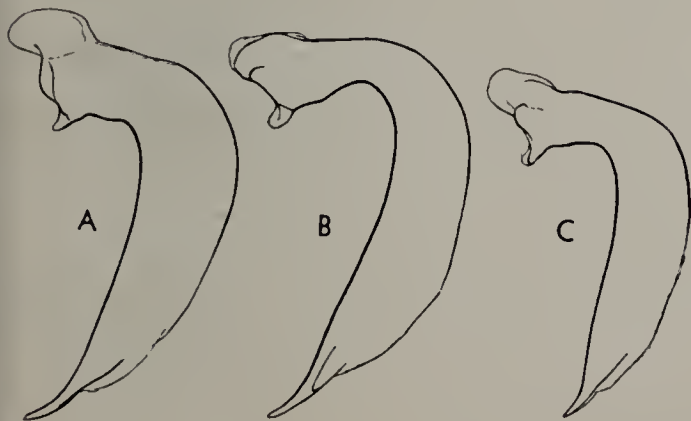


FIG. 2. Penis of *Oodes*.—A, *O. brevis*, new species (Fairfax, Va., paratype); B, *O. americanus* Dej. *f. typ.* (California; specimen compared with the type of Dejean); C, *O. americanus fluvialis* Lec. (Arlington, Mass.).

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(Continued from page 62)

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(Continued on page 68)